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This summer Governor Gregoire and her senior staff are visiting several communities across the state, engaging citizens in a meaningful dialogue about state government's priorities, performance and accountability. She is reaching out beyond the lobbyists and special interests who traditionally have had the most access to state government decision makers. As she puts it,

"We can't set the state's priorities alone in Olympia. I am reaching out to hear directly from the citizens, so they can help me set priorities and identify ways to measure whether state government is working better or not."

The citizen engagement process is designed in three tiers to engage citizens in a meaningful dialogue, and to gather information from multiple sources.

1. **Citizen Workshops:** Fifty citizens are selected at random to represent a cross-section of each community. These citizens meet with members of the governor's staff for a three-hour workshop to discuss, design, and prioritize performance measures to track progress in critical services, such as health care, the economy, transportation and education.
2. **Community Leader events:** Community leaders representing a broad spectrum of interests and organizations meet with the governor's senior staff to discuss the priorities developed in the citizen workshops, delving further into the most important issues in that community.
3. **Town Halls:** In an open community forum, Governor Gregoire will ask citizens directly what results they think their state government ought to be accountable for delivering.

Governor Gregoire will use the citizens' ideas to inform state budget development in the fall. She also conducts bi-weekly performance review sessions with agency directors, holding them personally accountable for delivering real results and ensuring that citizens get a good return on their tax dollars.

A final report on the summer's tour will be completed by August 31, 2006.

Everett Citizen Forum: Summary Report

Monday, July 31, 2006 at Everett Community College

Who was at the Everett Citizens Forum?

- 56 citizens, a representative sample drawn from a list of people who voted at least once in past 4 elections. Gender: 54% male, 46% female
- Where from: 15% Bothell; 11% Edmonds; 19% Everett; 17% Lynnwood; 13% Marysville; 15% Snohomish; 11% Other
- Age Group: 9% were 18-35; 37% were 36-50; 37% were 51-64; and 17% were 65 or older
- Household: 19% Single, no children; 37% Couple, no children; 11% Single, children at home; 33% Couple, children at home
- Employment: 33% private sector; 25% public sector, 42% not employed or retired

Here's what the citizens in Everett said they cared most about, in rank order of priority:

1) education 2) economic vitality 3) health 4) vulnerable populations

Overall Comments:

- State government is working: Better (22%) About the same (56%) Worse (22%). This closely matches the responses from a statewide survey conducted in April 2006
- Top indicators did not match priorities; group was concerned about that
- Interest in keeping citizens involved in the next level of detail
- Wanted to share their ideas on how the state can do a better job (e.g. better coordination of different agencies)
- Discussion around incentives for agencies to save rather than spend. Discussion ended in applause to Victor's comment "we are trying to find out if the money we are spending is actually solving problems."

What is not working very well in state government today:

Education (K-12 and Higher Ed)

- Tuition costs at community colleges
- Smaller schools don't offer as much as larger schools
- Parental involvement in schools
- WASL
- Special Education
- Not enough programs for students in the trades

Health

- Need more medical options covered by insurance
- Mental health
- Conditions of state assisted living and nursing facilities
- Lack of nursing presence in K-12

Transportation

- Traffic
- Construction management (I-405 torn apart multiple times)
- No vision on mass transit (e.g. monorail)
- Safety of Highway 2 (lots of studies, no action)
- Funding for paratransit
- Ferry system needs more runs

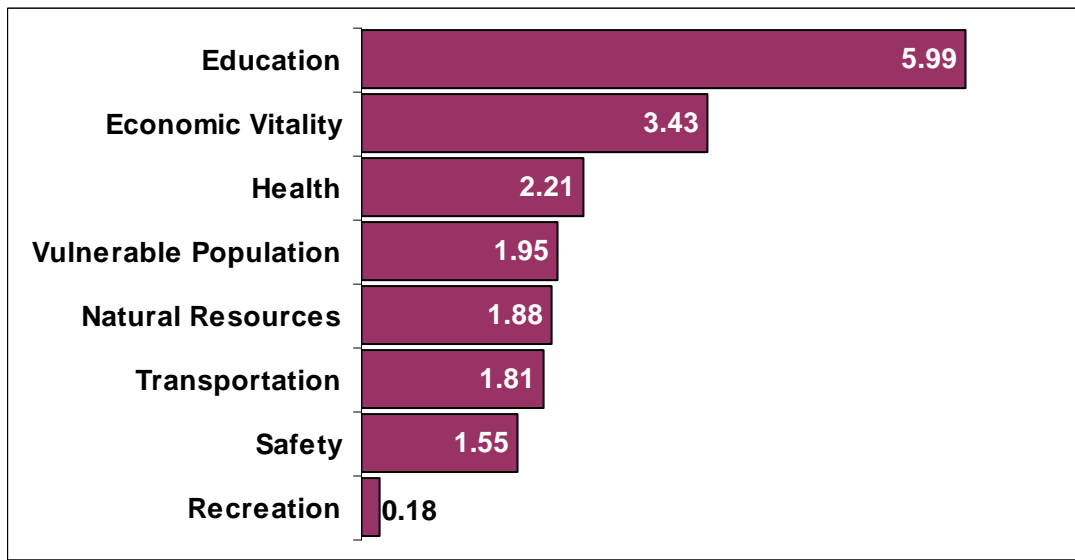
Other

- Access to parks and outdoor activities kept up with growth
- Housing growth out of control
- Incentives for small businesses
- Uniformity in elections
- More non-union contracts
- Breaks for senior citizens on property taxes

What is working well in state government today:

- Executive branch
- Renewable energy
- Removal of State Parks surcharge
- State information on the web
- Dept of Fish and Wildlife is keeping stocks up
- Public access cable (but needs more advertisement/exposure)

Here's what the citizens in Everett said they cared most about, in rank order of priority:



Here are the top 10 "Vital Signs" – how Everett citizens will know if state government is working better (or worse)

